United Nations A/61/873

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 67
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 16 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the information regarding the development of civil society institutions in Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 67.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

07-31301 (E) 230407

Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Development of non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Uzbekistan

For over ten years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been experiencing a process of active development of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The Government of Uzbekistan is paying special attention to the enactment of favourable legislative provisions designed to support civil society and the development of NGOs.

Accordingly, the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-governmental Organizations and Local Government Agencies of the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been monitoring and conducting an analytical assessment of compliance by the Republic's judicial organs with article 22, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests".

This work showed that Uzbekistan ratified the International Covenant in 1995 and, since its accession to the Covenant, has submitted two periodic reports to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which were considered. Following the consideration of the reports, national action plans were formulated, which are being consistently implemented.

The provisions of article 22 of the International Covenant are fully reflected in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and in particular in article 34, which states that citizens have the right to form trade unions, political parties and other social groupings and to take part in mass movements.

The machinery for the exercise of this constitutional right of citizens is described in the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan on social organizations (1991), on trade union groupings, their rights and protection of their activity (1992), on political parties (1996), on religious organizations and freedom of conscience (1998), on non-governmental non-profit organizations (1999), on local government agencies (1999), on social funds (2003), on the financing of political parties (2004), on elections of chairpersons of citizens' meetings and their advisers (2004), on the Trade and Industry Chamber of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2004), on partnerships of private housing owners (2006) and on protection of the activity of non-governmental non-profit organizations (2006).

In accordance with the legislation in force, the Rules on the consideration of applications for registration of the charters of social groupings active in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Regulations on the procedure for State registration and reregistration of branches and offices of foreign NGOs in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, confirmed by Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 12 March 1993 and 11 December 2003, respectively, and other regulatory instruments, the judicial organs of the Republic

are responsible for the registration of local and foreign NGOs and for monitoring their activity in accordance with their constituent instruments.

There are currently about 5,000 non-governmental non-profit organizations in Uzbekistan, including foreign ones. They have quite a broad range of activities. In addition to providing social services, NGOs are also active in such areas as culture and sports, women's and children's issues, science and education, health care, human rights, youth, environmental issues and the media.

The establishment in 2005 of the Uzbekistan Association of Non-governmental Non-profit Organizations was an important step in the further development of NGOs. This Association currently comprises over 200 different national NGOs.

In addition, with the aim of creating civic institutions that are independent, stable and supported by different strata of the population, enhancing their role in the solution of socially significant problems and increasing the public, political, social and business activity of citizens, a Fund was set up in 2005 to support non-governmental non-profit organizations in Uzbekistan.

It is noteworthy that most NGOs in the Republic currently specialize in the provision of social assistance (Solgom Avlod Uchun (For a Healthy Generation), Ekosan (Ecology and Health), Sen Elgiz Emassan (You Are Not Alone), Mekhr Nuri (Charitable Fund), Uzbekistan Trade Union Federation, etc.).

A growing number of national NGOs are also actively participating in the process of the adoption of decisions and laws in the country's Parliament.

Branches and offices of over 50 foreign NGOs are also doing useful work in Uzbekistan, most of them in the social area. Mention may be made inter alia of the Konrad Adenauer Fund (Germany), Operation Mercy (Sweden), Global SourceNet (United Kingdom), Mercy Corps (United States) and the Harvest Korea Incorporated Association (South Korea).

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 105 (e)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fourteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 17 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the State of Qatar has decided to present its candidacy for election to the Human Rights Council for the membership period 2007-2010 in the elections to take place during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly in May 2007.

In that regard, I have the honour to forward to you herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the State of Qatar at the national and international levels, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-31289 (E) 230407

Annex to the letter dated 17 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic]

The State of Qatar pays great and increasing attention to the goal of promoting and protecting human rights, considering that effort the cornerstone of the policy of constitutionally, politically, economically, socially and culturally comprehensive reform followed by Qatar. Owing to this deep-rooted belief in the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights, the State of Qatar has decided to present its candidacy for membership on the Human Rights Council, in whose establishment the State of Qatar participated from the outset in order for it to replace the Commission on Human Rights and correct all the drawbacks inherent in the work of the Commission, of which Qatar had been a member.

In this connection it should be mentioned that developments in the field of human rights in Qatar have taken place at every level and can be summarized under the following main headings:

- Legislation;
- Institutions;
- Interaction with the international system for the protection and promotion of human rights;
- Hosting of conferences.

I. Legislation

The question of human rights has played a major role in comprehensive reform policy, thanks to the new Constitution, which was adopted by means of a popular referendum held in 2003, was ratified by His Highness the beloved Emir of Qatar in 2004 and entered into force in June 2005.

Chapter III of the Constitution is devoted to rights freedoms, which are covered by Articles 34 to 58.

The new Constitution adopted the principle of the interdependence, interrelatedness and indivisibility of human rights and provides guarantees of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

Among the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, we might mention, among others, equality before the law, the prohibition against discrimination, personal freedom, the criminalization of torture, freedom of the press and expression, the establishment of associations, freedom of worship, the right to work, the right to education and the right of assembly.

The fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution have been strengthened and promoted through the passage of other legislation, of which we may mention some examples: the Penal Code, the Labour Code, the Private Institutions and Associations Act, the Public Prosecution Act, the Judicial Authority Act, the Settlement of Constitutional Disputes Act, the Settlement of Administrative Disputes Act and Royal Decree No. 14 of 2007 ratifying International Labour Organization Convention No. 105 (of 1957) concerning the Abolition of Forced

Labour, which acquired force of law pursuant to article 68 of the country's permanent Constitution.

II. Institutions

The State's concern with human rights has expressed itself in the establishment of numerous institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights with all their interdependence, interrelatedness and indivisibility, at both the governmental and non-governmental levels. At the governmental level, numerous departments concerned with human rights have been set up within ministries, such as the Office of Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Human Rights in the Ministry of the Interior, the Supreme Council of Family Affairs and the Office of the National Coordinator on Human Trafficking. At the non-governmental level, Qatar has seen the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee, which pursuant to Royal Decree No. 25 of 2006 was brought into line with the Paris Principles, and the founding of a number of civil-society organizations concerned with human rights and development.

In addition, the role of the Department of Labour in the Ministry of Civil Service and Housing Affairs has been activated with a view to providing the necessary protection for workers coming to the country as a result of the economic and development boom the State of Qatar is experiencing.

III. Interaction with the international system for the protection and promotion of human rights

Within the framework of its observance of international human rights law, the State has ratified a number of human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two related Protocols, the Convention against Torture and the Convention on Racial Discrimination, and has submitted initial and periodic reports to the committees on those conventions. It is assiduous in implementing the recommendations of contractual mechanisms and in providing a suitable climate for the implementation of the provisions of the said conventions.

The State is currently carrying out the final formalities for accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In the interest of Qatar's compliance with the special mechanisms, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Sigma Huda, visited the country within the framework of her mandate relating to trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from 8 to 12 November 2006, upon a request by her to which the State of Qatar acquiesced. The Special Rapporteur valued the considerable action undertaken by Qatar at the legislative, institutional and procedural levels towards combating the phenomenon of trafficking in persons and reported that the visit was a positive prelude to constructive dialogue with the Government aimed at helping to promote measures at the international level to eliminate the phenomenon of human trafficking.

Qatar has also acceded to a request by the Special Rapporteur on migrants to visit the country during the current year.

It should also be mentioned that Qatar is to host the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, established by General Assembly resolution 60/153. The centre aims, by

means of training, information, documentation, studies and the exchange of experience, to promote and strengthen human rights through cooperation with Governments in the development of human rights policies and the promotion of human rights principles.

IV. Hosting of conferences

Qatar has continued its policy of openness towards the hosting of international conferences dealing with questions of development, democracy and human rights. In this regard, mention may be made of numerous world conferences that have been hosted by Qatar, such as the sixth International Conference on New or Restored Democracies and the U.S.-Islamic World Forum, among others. In addition, Doha is to host, during the current year, the Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade and the Doha Inter-faith Forum.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 19 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations between 8 and 14 April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-31388 (E) 200407 200407

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and activities from 8 to 14 April 2007, inclusive

Air violations

Between 1710 and 1910 hours on 8 April 2007, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh, circled over areas of the South and departed over `Alma al-Sha`b. Between 2058 and 2340 hours another reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Sarafand, flying as far as Beirut, circled between Sarafand and Beirut and then departed over al-Naqurah.

Between 1300 and 1335 hours on 12 April 2007, Israeli enemy warplanes flew at high altitudes over the area of Bint Jubayl.

At 1249 hours on 14 April 2007, Israeli enemy aircraft flew over Ras al-Naqurah.

Sea violations

Between 0839 and 0850 hours on 8 April 2007, an Israeli enemy military launch fired several bursts of medium machine gun fire in the open sea opposite Ras al-Naqurah.

Acts of aggression in the field

Between 1935 and 2210 hours on 11 April 2007, a searchlight was directed from the Israeli enemy's outpost at Jabal al-Tayyarat in the direction of the outskirts of the village of Yarun.

At 1055 hours on 14 April 2007, during a patrol by the Lebanese Army on the Blue Line, two Israeli soldiers aimed their weapon at the patrol at Tallat Yarun (opposite the Hadab position) and an Israeli tank aimed its gun at the patrol at Birkat Yarun.

Israeli activities

Between 2030 and 2040 hours on 11 April 2007, Israeli enemy warplanes and helicopters flew inside the occupied territories opposite the villages of Yarun, Rumaysh and `Ayta al-Sha`b as far as Ramiyah, and between 2115 and 2215 hours two helicopters flew over the outposts at al-Ramta, al-Samaqah, Ruwaysat al-`Alam and Birkat al-Naqar (inside the occupied Shab`a farmlands).

At 1030 hours on 14 April 2007 the Israeli enemy opened fire on a floating object to the south of the line of buoys in order to sink it (inside the waters of occupied Palestine).

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Security Council

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Sixty-first session
Agenda items 66, 80 and 100

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Right of peoples to self-determination

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the release of the international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, adopted on Friday, 20 April 2007 (see annex).

Furthermore, I request that you kindly circulate the above-mentioned document as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66, 80 and 100, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

07-31642 (E) 240407

Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the release of the international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles

The Non-Aligned Movement has received with great concern the news issued by international news agencies on the release on bail of the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles by decision of a United States Court.

As it is very well know, Mr. Posada Carriles is responsible for numerous terrorist actions against Cuba and other countries, including the terrorist attack on a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in October 1976, which caused the death to 73 innocent civilians from different countries, for which the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has requested his extradition to the Government of the United States. Despite this fact, he was been detained in United States territory under a simple accusation of an immigration violation, while the Venezuelan request has been ignored.

The Movement reaffirms its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whosoever, and against whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which are unjustifiable whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them.

The Movement urges all States once again, consistent with the UN Charter, to fulfil their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law in the fight against terrorism, including by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; by preventing the organization, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territories or by organisations based in their territories; by refraining from organizing, instigating, assisting, financing or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States; by refraining from encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts; by refraining from allowing the use of their territories for planning, training or financing for such acts; or by refraining from supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States.

The Movement demands that all States refrain from extending, political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism, and in this context, urges all States, consistent with the UN Charter and in fulfilling their obligations under international law, to ensure that refugee status or any other legal status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, and that claims of political motivation by them are not recognised as grounds for refusing requests for their extradition.

As it was agreed by the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement at the 14th Summit Conference held in Havana on September 2006, the Movement reiterates its support for the extradition request that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela interposed to the Government of the United States to bring Mr. Luis Posada Carriles to justice.